



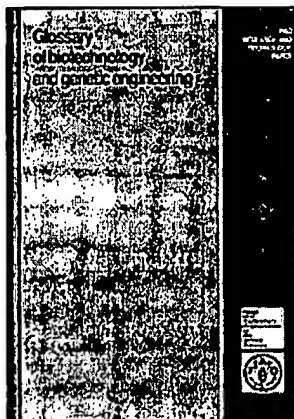
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Glossary of biotechnology and genetic engineering

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Table of contents

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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7

Food
and
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morphogenesis The development, through growth and differentiation, of form and structure in an organism.

morphogenic response The effect on the developmental history of a plant or its parts exposed to a given set of growth conditions or to a change in the environment.

morphology (Gr. *morphe*, form + *logos*, discourse) 1. The science of studying form and its development.

2. General: Shape, form, external structure or arrangement.

mosaic An organism or part of an organism that is composed of cells with different origin.

mother plant See donor plant.

movable genetic element See transposon.

mRNA; messenger RNA The RNA transcript of a protein-encoding gene. The information encoded in the mRNA molecule is translated into a polypeptide of specific amino acid sequence by the ribosomes. In eukaryotes, mRNAs transfer genetic information from the DNA to ribosomes, where it is translated into protein.

MRUs Minimum recognition units. See dabs.

mtDNA See mitochondrial DNA.

multi-copy Describing plasmids which replicate to produce many plasmid molecules per host genome, e.g., pBR322 is a multi-copy plasmid, there are usually 50 pBR322 molecules (or copies) per *E. coli* genome.

multigene family A group of genes that are similar in nucleotide sequence or that produce polypeptides with similar amino acid sequences.

multigenic Controlled by several genes, as opposed to monogenic.

multi-locus probe A probe that hybridizes to a number of different sites in the genome of an organism. See probe.

multimer; multimeric A protein made up of more than one peptide chain.

multiple alleles The existence of more than two alleles at a locus in a population.

multiple cloning site See polylinker.

multiple drop array (MDA) See microdroplet array.

multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (MOET) A technology by which a single female that usually produces only one or two offspring can produce a litter of offspring. Involves stimulation of a female to shed large numbers of ova; natural mating or